

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W

----- 097816

R 192343Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5227

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 2753

USIAC

FOR: IOP/M, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - TAIWAN'S LARGEST-CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) EDITORIALY SAID HANDLING OF THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT BY FORCE HAS WON U.S. WORLDWIDE PRESTIGE AND HELPED RESTORE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S SELF-CONFIDENCE. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) BANNERED STORY QUOTING UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE SAYING U.S. HAS INCLUDED ALL OF TAIWAN INCLUDING KINMEN AND MATSU IN NEWLY-DEFINED U.S. PACIFIC DEFENSE LINE. END SUMMARY.

2. LARGEST-CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) MAY 18 EDITORIAL SAID HANDLING OF MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT BY FORCE HAS WON U.S. WORLDWIDE PRESTIGE AND HELPED RESTORE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S SELF-CONFIDENCE. GREAT IMPACT OF INDOCHINESE DEBACLE ON U.S. WAS APPARENTLY COLLAPSE OF "AMERICAN SPIRIT" AND LOSS SELF-CONFIDENCE AMONG PEOPLE WHICH, IN TURN, ENCOURAGED RISE OF DISENGAGEMENT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ISOLATIONISM SENTIMENT. THIS IS SHARP CONTRAST TO POTENT,

CONFIDENT U.S. OF TEN YEARS AGO. BUT U.S. HAS PROVED TO BE NOT A PAPER TIGER AFTER ALL. IT INDEED HAS NUCLEAR TEETH AND STRENGTH IS ONLY ANSWER TO COMMUNIST EXPANSION. BUT BEFORE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS LEARN TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE THERE WILL BE MORE COMMUNIST TESTS OF U.S.

543,&5#. REMAINING ALLIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA MAY BE HERDED INTO COMMUNIST SPHERE IF U.S. IS TIMID OR HESITANT. HOWEVER, IRON TRIANGLE -- ROC, ROK, JAPAN -- CAN BE FORGED IN NORTHEAST ASIA WITH U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO CONSOLIDATE SECURITY IN WESTERN PACIFIC. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE'S YOUTH WARRIOR DAILY (60,000), PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL NEW LIFE DAILY NEWS (60,000) AND MIN TSU EVENING NEWS (60,000) CARRIED SIMILAR COMMENTS.

3. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) BANNERED STORY QUOTING UNSPECIFIED AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE SAYING TAIWAN, KINMEN AND MATSU HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN A NEWLY-DEFINED U.S. PACIFIC DEFENSE LINE. NEW LINE REPORTEDLY WILL EXTEND ALONG ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, SOUTH OF KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, THE KURILE ISLANDS, SOUTHERN TIP OF SAKHALIN ISLAND, JAPAN'S HOKKAIDO, THE 38TH PARALLEL IN KOREA, PASSING THROUGH FORMOSA STRAITS TO INCLUDE MATSU AND KINMEN AND ENDING NEAR GULF OF SIAM.  
CLARKE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, TW, ID, US  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006